



St Francis of Assisi

Parish Newsletter

“We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart and to bring home those who have lost their way”.
St. Francis.



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Stella Maris/Sea Sunday **9th July 2023**



Embarrassing events in life may have their amusing side, but they've often got something to teach us. Embarrassment hurts our pride. We don't want other people to see us at our worst. But our God, who knows us so well, loves us despite everything. In fact, our God seems to love us even more when we're down on our luck, when things go badly, when we're struggling with difficulties of one kind or another. That's the encouraging message our Mass has for us today. The assurance that God loves us even in our sins gives us

courage to acknowledge our need of God's mercy. More than that, it helps us to see that the Lord is longing for us to experience his mercy and compassion.

Today's Readings:

Zechariah 9:9-10: The prophet visualises the Messiah arriving in Jerusalem and being presented to the crowds as their king – a humble king, seated on a donkey.

Response to the Psalm:

I will bless your name forever, O God my King.

Romans 8:9. 11-13: Paul reminds the early Christians in Rome that God has filled them with the life-giving Spirit of Jesus.

Matthew 11:25-30 : Throughout Matthew's Gospel Jesus teaches us that we show that we are true followers of his not so much by our words as by our deeds.

“Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest”

The attitude of child-like receptivity and obedience to God's will is the key to entering God's reign. Jesus demonstrated this by his own relationship with his Father. The Father handed over everything to the Son who received it with a humble heart. In turn, the Son shared his knowledge of God with the people who accepted his teaching with simple faith. Jesus gratefully praised God for having revealed the mysteries of the kingdom to the lowly ones (*anawim*). In contrast, the “wise” were closed to God's revelation and arrogantly persisted in their unbelief. The religious leaders had made it difficult for the unlearned to approach God because of the crushing weight they laid on them by complicating God's law with endless rules. They made no effort to lighten the load of these obligations, and often neglected the true purpose of the law -- mercy and justice. Jesus invited all who were burdened by the law to come to him and accept his yoke, which was “easy”. In Palestine, ox-yokes were carefully made and adjusted, so that they would fit well. By taking on the light yoke of obedience to Jesus' word, his followers would not chafe under the law, but find peace and rest from all that oppressed them.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: BI-ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CEMETERY AT 11:30AM. **WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY 2023** – TALK ON THE “OUR FATHER” – 7pm – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST, GIDEA PARK (RM2 6DH). **19TH July 2023** – JOURNEY OF FAITH MEETING – 7pm IN THE FRIARY. **SATURDAY 29th JULY 2023** - **COACH TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE. THE COACH LEAVES THE CHURCH AT 9:30AM, AND LEAVES WALTON AT 4:30PM.** **MONDAY 29TH AUGUST 2023** – BANK HOLIDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM – NO 12:15 MASS.

Pray for those who have died, and those whose Anniversaries occur around this time, also, please pray for the sick, and, remember the People of Ukraine. Our thoughts and prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquakes.

SEA SUNDAY – STELLA MARIS

Targeting support to seafarers is crisis – no one should be left adrift in a Crisis. We are asked to pray for all those who make their living on the sea, one of the most dangerous professions in the world. The charity supports chaplains and volunteers who work for those seafarers.

A retiring collection will be taken.

Feast of St. Bonaventure – 15th July 2023.

ST BONAVENTURE ‘2nd founder of the Franciscan Order.’ Minister-General from 1257. Tried to reconcile two traditions in friars – those who saw poverty as being above every other virtue, and those of a more intellectual idea, who envisaged a broader teaching function. Bonaventure took the best from both traditions. A great theologian, known as the Seraphic Teacher in distinction to his friend Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Teacher. Bonaventure had strong mystical streak: he always insisted that it was more important to inflame the heart than to enlighten the mind. Son of a doctor, born about 40 miles north-east of Rome. Joined Friars & sent to study in Paris. Taught by a Friar of our Province, Alexander of Hales. Bonaventure wrote the official life of St Francis. His ‘Journey of the Soul to God’ is a spiritual classic. As Minister-General he travelled in Italy, France, Germany and England. He proposed, as Pope, a man he’d known in Paris, Tedaldo Visconti. He became Pope Gregory X. He himself was appointed cardinal and Bishop of Albano in 1273. Instrumental in securing reunion between Rome and Constantinople. Council of Lyons very much the work of Bonaventure. Addressed Council several times but died during it in 1274. Thomas Aquinas plotted the way of the intellect to God; Bonaventure speaks more about the heart: love as avenue to God. He saw the world as filled with ‘vestigia Dei’ ‘traces of God’. It’s God himself who enables us to even think about Him. In ‘Journey of the Soul to God’, Bonaventure wrote, ‘if you ask how mystical experience is possible, look to the grace of God and not to doctrine, to the thrust of the heart and not the intellect, to prayer and not to research, seek the Lover and not the Teacher. ... look not to the light of the intellect but to the burning fire that carries the soul to God.’



REQUIEM MASS –

Monday this week:

Biannual Concelebrated Requiem Mass St Patrick’s Cemetery, Leyton.
Monday 10 July 11.30am.

Pray for our beloved dead

Franciscans

ST. BONAVENTURE’S UNIFORM APPEAL

St Bon’s and the Community would like to thank everyone for their donations.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

There will be a meeting on 19th July 2023 at 7pm in the Friary. Everyone welcome.

Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life, to Walsingham Saturday 5th August, led by Archbishop Kevin McDonald.

For details see the poster at the back of the Church on the noticeboard & on the Parish Website, or go to www.prolifepilgrimage.org. Please join in the 'great prayer for life' asked for by Pope Saint John Paul II.

Uniform for St Bonaventure's

We are looking for any unused school uniform to give to current students. If you have any of the following items in **good** condition, they would be much appreciated. Black or brown school blazers, black or brown v neck jumpers, white shirts, black school trousers, school shoes, ties or school PE kit - these should be for boys aged 11 to 16. These can be dropped at the school reception on Boleyn Road or to the Parish Office. Thank you in advance

The seven Parishes of the Newham Deanery are printing an attractive leaflet giving all the Mass times in the seven Parishes of the Deanery. **We’re** responsible for the distribution to every Hotel and every household in St Francis Parish (E15, E20 and parts of E11). If you can help with this, you will have the backing of the Priests, the Parish Office and all the Mass-goers here in St Francis. Please talk to us after Mass – or leave your details with the Parish Office.

Grove Crescent Rd, Stratford, E15 1BJ

Masses

Monday to Friday 12:15. **Tuesday**, after Mass, St Anthony Novena. **Saturday**: Morning Prayer: 9:40am Mass 10am followed by Holy Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:30am.
Confession: Saturday: 10:30am - 11:30am & 5pm – 5:45pm
Sunday: 6pm Saturday, 9am, 10:15am, 12 noon & 4:30pm (Ukrainian).

Fr Patrick Lonsdale, OFM (Guardian)

Fr Michael O’Grady, OFM (Parish Priest)

Fr Brian McGrath, OFM

Fr Yusuf Bagh, OFM

Address: The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, E15 1NS.

Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9:30am - 3pm

Parish Secretary: Kathleen Allen

Pastoral Assistant: Derek Hoddy

Tel: 0208 534 1964 Email: stratford@friar.org

Website: stfrancisassisistratford.com